

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 3687 - HB 3802

February 13, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Lowers the number of signatures needed on a recognized minor party petition from at least two and one-half percent of the total number of votes cast for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election of Governor to at least 1,000 for a statewide election, United States Senate election, or United States House of Representatives election; at least 250 for a state senate or state house election; and at least 100 for any local election. Once a minor party is recognized, it shall remain recognized for four years. To remain a recognized minor party after the four-year period, the minor party must meet the requirements of a statewide political party as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-1-104, or receive a number of votes equal to at least five percent of the total number of votes cast in an election for which the minor party was recognized during the four-year period.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$1,500/FY12-13 and Every Two Years

Assumptions:

- The Coordinator of Elections anticipates that more petitions will be filed with the Coordinator's office because the required number of signatures on a recognized minor party petition will be substantially lowered by this bill. This estimate assumes one petition will be filed every other year.
- The proposed bill does not require each page of the petition to be separated by county; therefore, each page of the petition will contain the signatures of registered voters from various counties. According to the Coordinator of Elections, some additional administrative work to organize the signatures by county will result.
- Temporary personnel will be hired to assist with the dissemination of the petition to the counties.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections' office, one temporary intern will be required to perform the additional administrative functions.
- The temporary intern will work a 20-day cycle and will be paid \$10 per hour for 7.5 hours per day. The increase in state expenditures will be \$1,500 (\$10 per hour x 7.5 hours per day x 20 working days).
- A temporary intern will be hired each time a petition is filed.
- Any impact on local governments can be accommodated within existing resources without an increase in personnel or other budget items.

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CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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